

Town of Agawam
Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of Public Meeting and Public Hearing
June 27, 2018

Members Present: Henry Kozloski; Chairperson, Louis Russo, Vi Baldwin, Doreen Prouty, Vincent Ronghi, Ray Moreau, Alice Smith

Others Present: Jennifer Bonfiglio; CPA Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM by Chairman Kozloski.

1. ***Approval of minutes:*** Motion to approve minutes of May 23, 2018 as amended by Member Russo. Second by Member Prouty. All in favor.
2. Motion close the public meeting at 6:50 PM
3. Motion to open the public hearing by Member Russo at 7:00 PM. Second by Member Prouty. All in favor.

Chairperson Kozloski introduced the committee members and CPA Administrator Jennifer Bonfiglio, explains the agenda and begins the PowerPoint presentation

1. ***Overview:*** Jennifer Bonfiglio provides a brief overview of the Community Preservation Act (CPA).
 2. ***Financial Report*** provided via Power Point Presentation. Total current fund balance is \$3,863,278. Revenues are reviewed. CPA in Agawam has collected \$6,501,050.75 in surcharges since 2003 for a total of 57.17% of total revenues. State Matching funds, interest, grants and gifts totaling \$4,870,157.37 make up for 42.83% of total CPA revenues since 2003. CPA fund designations are explained and reviewed. Average cost to Agawam homeowner is \$35.57 a year.
 3. ***Recreation:*** Review of Recreation purpose and allowable spending provided via Power Point Presentation. Christopher Sparks, Park & Recreation Director provides an update on the recently completed Recreation Master Plan. Digital copies will be available and Hard copies will be distributed. Milone and Macbrook recently competed the plan. They conducted a park and recreation department profile and also highlighted and explained who and where the underserved population is. A user survey was completed and comments and feedback were highlighted. CPA has funded many past projects and Chris Sparks acknowledges park and recreation has been the biggest beneficiary of CPA fund. A list of the "High Priority" project were presented. Of these high priority projects, Chris Sparks would like to begin by conducting a Feasibility Study for a Feeding Hills parks and/or a study for the Valley Brook Park.
Chair Kozloski opened discussion to the public.
Will Clark asked if public gardens are an eligible use of CPA fund. Jennifer Bonfiglio stated yes. Corinne Wingard states she would like to see a public garden pursued by park and recreation. Donna Jago also agrees.
Susan Grossberg would like to see additional bike trails and lanes in town.
Chris Sparks explains the Engineering Department is overseeing the Complete Streets Plan which includes bike lanes around town.
3. ***Community Housing:*** Review of Community Housing allowable spending, purpose explained. Member Ronghi discusses housing further and explaining who is served Housing Authority

initiatives were discussed. The need for a housing consultant and housing trust is explained and was recommended by the Housing Committee and intend to apply to CPA for funding. Zoning changes are also needed and a consultant will need to be hired also. CPA funding will also be considered for this.

Chair Kozloski opened discussion to the public.

Will Clark questions if CPA funding can be used for Habitat for Humanity. Yes. It has been explored in the past and is eligible. Habitat is welcome to apply for CPA funds.

Corrine Wingard, states there is a huge need for Agawam residents and is excited at the prospects.

Chair Kozloski states most CPA communities spend their funds on open space and housing.

Agawam has spent most of the CPA funds on recreation. There is currently \$1.9 million in unreserved funds available for housing in addition to \$750,000 in reserves housing funds.

City Councilor Dino Mercadante states he supports hiring a housing consultant with CPA fund.

4. ***Historical Preservation:*** Jennifer Bonfiglio reviews the Historical Preservation purpose and allowable spending via Power Point Presentation. Goals and possibilities as outlined by the CPA committee and identified with the assistance of the Agawam Historical Commission are reviewed. Discussion opened to the public.
Jarl Johnson who owns a house on North West Street in interested in protecting a former school house on his property.
David Cecchi explains the demolition delay ordinance and the need for some changes to it and the revisions that are forthcoming.
Susan Grossberg provides information on old historical windows and a business that rehabilitates them.
5. ***Open Space:*** Review of open space purpose and accomplishments provided via Power Point Presentation by Jen Bonfiglio. Open Space goals and possibilities as outlined by the CPA committee are reviewed. Allowable spending is defined. Discussion opened to the public
Corinne Wingard question if a land trust is available and an option for the Town.
4. ***Administrative Expenses:*** 5% of annual estimated revenues may be used for administrative expensed. Unspent funds are returned to the fund. Historically Agawam has used 2.5% on average annually to operate CPA. Application guidelines are explained.
5. Motion to close public hearing at 8:15 PM by Member Russo, second by Member Ronghi. All in favor.
6. Motion to re-open the public meeting.
7. Motion by Member Ronghi to create an ad-hoc committee to update CPA application process and eligibility criteria. Second by Member Prouty. All in favor. Members Prouty, Russo and Ronghi will serve.
8. Motion by Member Ronghi to schedule a workshop to update the CPA Committee rules and regulations. Second by Member Prouty. All in favor.
9. Motion to adjourn meeting by Member Russo at 8:40 PM. Second by Member Ronghi. All in favor. create an ad-hoc committee